



REL 3082: GLOBAL ETHICS
Spring 2023

Instructor: Anna Peterson, Department of Religion
Office: 105 Anderson
Religion Department (mailbox): 107 Anderson
Tel. 352/273-2936 (direct line) or 352/392-1625 (department office)
E-mail: annap@ufl.edu
Fax 352/392-7395
Class schedule: Tu. 5-6th periods/Th. 6th period
Office Hours: Tu. 9th period (3-3:50) and Thurs. 5th (11:45-12:35)

ABOUT THE CLASS

When is it morally justified to go to war? Do all people have a right to health care? Which human rights are truly universal? Who is responsible for addressing climate change?

If you like to ask big questions, this course is for you! It will give you knowledge and tools to reflect on the ethical dimensions of global issues including human rights, war and peace, health disparities, and climate change.

The class is taught in a conversational format, emphasizing discussion and critical thinking. Students will learn about different theories in philosophical and religious ethics and then use those approaches to understand and evaluate the moral issues involved in contemporary global

issues, including human rights, war and peace, climate change, and public health. In examining these case studies, students will learn to “do ethics” in a rigorous way, identifying the moral aspects of a social, political, economic, or environmental problem; defining and analyzing the issues clearly; and evaluating the ways different theoretical and methodological approaches help clarify and address the problems.

POLICIES, RULES, AND RESOURCES

1. *Attendance and Participation:* Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies, found in the [online catalog](#). Please let me know about any planned absences (for religious holidays, athletic events, or other reasons) as soon as possible. For unplanned absences (due to illness or emergency), please let me know as soon as possible and provide documentation (e.g., doctor’s note).

2. *Make-up policy:* I will arrange for a make-up or early in-class exam only with sufficient notice. If you do not receive an extension from the instructor, assignment will be marked down a half grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.

3. *Honor Code:* The [UF honor](#) code applies to this and all courses taken at UF: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. Any student(s) demonstrated to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in *any assignment* for this course will fail the course. In addition, violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines may result in judicial action and sanctions, as specified in the Student Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>).

4. *Accommodation for Disabilities:* Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

5. *Counseling and Emergency Resources:* Please let me know if you need support facing challenges that affect your academic performance. There are many resources available for students, and I will be glad to help you get the assistance you need in order to thrive at UF. Some resources include:

- a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
- b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
- c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
- d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

e. For security issues, please contact the University Police Department: 392-1111, or 911 for general emergencies.

6. *Software Use*: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

READINGS

Books will be available on reserve at Library West in addition to the UF bookstore.

Kimberly Hutchings, *Global Ethics: An Introduction* (Polity Press, 2010)

Additional readings will be posted on the class Canvas site.

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Full instructions and assignment details, including evaluation criteria, will be provided for each of the out of class essays at least ten days before the due date.

1. Active, informed participation in class discussions. Participation grade will be based on attendance, engagement, and unannounced reading quizzes. 10% of final grade.
2. First short essay (about 750 words), on theoretical frameworks and approaches to global ethics; due Sunday, Feb. 5. 25% of total grade.
3. Second short essay (about 750 words), on war and peace and human rights; due Sunday, March 12. 25% of grade
4. Third short essay (about 750 words) on climate change and health equity; due Sunday, April 30. 25% of grade
4. Modular debate on health care as a human right. You will work in groups, which we will select in class on March 30, to prepare for this activity. The debate will take place on the final day of class, Tuesday April 25. Each student will prepare a one-page summary of research, which will be due by midnight on Sunday, April 23. 15% of grade.

SCHEDULE

Module One: Introduction to Global Ethics

Tu. 1/10 Introduction to the class: syllabus, assignments, and expectations

,

Th 1/12 Introducing global ethics
Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 1: What is Global Ethics?

- Tu 1/17 Major rationalist ethical theories (Kant, Utilitarians, Social Contract)
Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 2: Rationalist Ethical Theories
- Th 1/19 Alternative theoretical models: strengths and weaknesses
Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 3: Alternatives to Ethical Rationalism
- Tu 1/24 Distributive justice; ethics of international aid and relief
Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 4: Ethics of International Aid and Development
and Ch. 5: Global Distributive Justice
- Th 1/26 Ethics of war and peace
Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 6: Ethics of War, and Ch. 7: Making and
Sustaining Peace
- Tu 1/31 Connecting global and local problems and solutions
Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 8: Global Ethics in a Glocal Context
- Th 2/2 Globalizing the Trolley Problem
Josh Clark, [“How the Trolley Problem Works”](#)

[Iyad Rahwan, “Sacrifice One Person to Save Five?”](#) Max Planck Gesellschaft
(Jan. 22, 2020)

Sorokowski, P., Marczak, M., Misiak, M. *et al.* Trolley Dilemma in Papua. Yali horticulturalists refuse to pull the lever. *Psychon Bull Rev* **27**, 398–403 (2020).
<https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-019-01700-y>

Sun 2/5 First essay due by midnight

Module Two: Religion and Global Human Rights

- Tu 2/7 Global Human Rights
[UN Declaration on Human Rights](#) (1949)
Michael Perry, “Are Human Rights Universal?” *Human Rights Quarterly* 19, No. 3 (Aug. 1997), pp. 461-509.
- Th 2/9 Religion and Human Rights
Louis Henkin, “Religion, Religions, and Human Rights.” *The Journal of Religious Ethics* 26, No. 2 (Fall, 1998), pp. 229- 239
- Tu 2/14 Human rights in Christianity and Islam
Abdul Aziz Said, “Precept and Practice of Human Rights in Islam.” *Universal Human Rights*. 1, No. 1 (Jan. - Mar., 1979), pp. 63-79.
- Zachary Calo, “Catholic Social Thought and Human Rights.” *The American*

Journal of Economics and Sociology 74, No. 1, (Jan. 2015), pp. 93-112

Th 2/16 Women's rights as human rights
Asma Uddin, "Women's rights in Islamic Law." *Atlantic Council* (2017).

Susan Moller Okin, "Feminism, Women's Human Rights, and Cultural Differences." *Hypatia* 13, No. 2 (Spring, 1998), pp. 32-52.

Module Three: Religion, War, and Peace

Tu 2/21 Religion's multiple roles in war
Prince Sorie Conteh, "The Role of Religion During and After the Civil War in Sierra Leone." *Journal for the Study of Religion* 24, No. 1 (2011), pp. 55-76.

Th 2/23 Religion and conflict resolution
Duncan Forrester, "Violence and Non-Violence in Conflict Resolution: Some Theological Reflections." *Studies in Christian Ethics* 16, no. 2 (2003), 64–79.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/095394680301600205>

Tu 2/28 Just war theory
Michael Walzer, "The Triumph of Just War Theory (and the Dangers of Success)." *Social Research*. 69, No. 4 (winter 2002), pp. 925-944.

Davis Brown, "The Permissive Nature of the War Ethic in Islam." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 2, No. 3 (2014), pp. 460-483

Th. 3/2 Pacifism
Theresa Der-lan Yeh, "The Way to Peace: A Buddhist Perspective." *International Journal of Peace Studies*. 11, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2006), pp. 91-112

John Howard Yoder, "The Kingdom as Social Ethic" from *The Priestly Kingdom: Social Ethics as Gospel* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1984).

Tu 3/7 The changing nature of war
Jovana Davidovic, "Should the Changing Character of War Affect Our Theories of War?" *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 19 (2016), 603–618.

Brad Allenby, "The Implications of Emerging Technologies for Just War Theory." *Public Affairs Quarterly* 27, Number 1, January 2013.

Th 3/9 War and children
Kay Read, "When Is a Kid a Kid? Negotiating Children's Rights in El Salvador's Civil War" *History of Religions*. 41, No. 4 (May, 2002), pp. 391-409

Sun. 3/12 Second essay due by midnight

March 13-18: Spring Break, no class

Module Four: Religion and Climate Change Ethics

Tu 3/21 Climate change as an ethical problem
David Hicks, "Learning to See Climate Change." *Teaching Geography* 40, No. 3 (Autumn 2015), pp. 94-96

Th 3/23 Religion and climate change
Willis Jenkins, et al., "Religion and Climate Change." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* (2018).

Tu 3/28 Environmental justice, religion, and climate change
Pope Francis I, *Laudato Si'* (May 2015).

[TedTalk](#): Cheryl Holder, "The Link Between Climate Change, Health, and Poverty"

Th 3/30 Hope and responsibility
Jochen Kleres and Åsa Wettergren, "Fear, hope, anger, and guilt in climate activism." *Social Movement Studies* 16:5 (2017), 507-519.

[TedTalk](#): Xiye Bastida, "If You Adults Won't Save the World, We Will."

In class today, we will select groups for the modular debate project

Tu 4/4 Instructor out of town – work on modular debate group project

Th 4/6 Instructor out of town – work on modular debate group project

Module Five: Religion and Global Health

Tu 4/11 Religion and Global Health
Brodit et al., "Global Health Equity." *Journal of Best Practices in Health Professions Diversity* 11, No. 2 (Fall 2018), pp. 150-154

["Religion and Global Health: An Interview with Dr. Susan Holman"](#)

Th 4/13 Religion and Global Bioethics
[Global Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights](#)
Munyaradzi Felix Murove, "African Bioethics: An Explanatory Discourse." *Journal for the Study of Religion* 18, No. 1 (2005), pp. 16-36

Tu 4/18 COVID-19 and global health ethics
Lisa Forman, "The Evolution of the Right to Health in the Shadow of COVID-19." *Health and Human Rights* 22, No. 1 (June 2020), pp. 375-378

Ebenezer Obadare, ["The Spiritual Dimension of COVID-19 in Africa"](#)
Think Global Health (July 6, 2022).

- Th. 4/20 Global Responsibilities
[Ursula LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"](#)
- Sun. 4/23 Modular debate paper due by midnight**
- Tu. 4/25 Modular Debate: Is health care a human right?
- Sunday 4/30 Third essay due by midnight**